

To the Public Health Committee:

I am writing regarding the Proposed S.B. No. 250 AN ACT CONCERNING ART THERAPY.

As a soon to be graduated Masters of Art Therapy student I find the subject of an LCAT or Clinical Art Therapy License in the state of CT of the utmost importance. An LCAT or Clinical Art Therapy License would not only protect those of us who have been properly educated and trained in Art Therapy, it also protects our clients. Many people currently in CT State (Of whom I could provide both Names and Addresses) are able to legally call themselves "Art Therapists" despite not having the proper training to provide art therapy or any means of counseling.

As you may be aware, counseling or therapy of any kind when administered improperly can cause the worsening of mental illness, addiction, domestic violence or abuse. Allowing a field to go unprotected legally allows for our clients, the citizens of CT state, to also go unprotected. I believe it is our ethical, moral and legal obligation to have an LCAT or Clinical Art Therapy License in CT State to protect clients and trained practitioners from those that would be less than ethical in their practice.

While I am not a large institution, or a big name in the State of CT I care very deeply for my clients and consumers. They (and my employers) rely greatly on my current and continuing education to provide properly trained therapeutic services. The thought of someone masquerading as a licensed professional or educated professional in Art Therapy when they have not made the time or effort makes me fear for the safety and well being of my clients. I hope the state takes these genuine concerns into account when making decisions on an LCAT or Clinical Art Therapy License for art therapist in the state of CT.

Kind Regards,

Emily Reim Ifrach

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